

May 29, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

Please read into the record: The Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance (UPSA) supports SB 1057, SB 1058, SB 1059, SB 1060, and SB 1061.

UPSA represents approx. 22,000 individuals in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The supported bill numbers above influence or are associated with private forest land and/or management of such. The forest industry and related benefits (wildlife, recreation, & land-use) are very important to the members of UPSA.

The Upper Peninsula consists of approx. 8 million acres (primarily in forest cover); almost half of that amount is owned by the private sector. How this large land base is managed, or should I say, "assistance and service is given to those who own the land", is very important.

It is time for a change in strategy and leadership in private land management. The MDNR has neither prioritized nor succeeded in successful assistance to the majority of private forested land owners. We therefore support private forest land assistance be moved from the MDNR and delivered through local Conservation Districts.

Sincerely,

Tony Demboski
UPSA President